



# The Beautiful VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK

July 2011



Village of Biscayne Park  
640 NE 114<sup>th</sup> Street  
Biscayne Park, FL 33161  
Tel: 305 899 8000  
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[www.biscayneparkfl.gov](http://www.biscayneparkfl.gov)

## VILLAGE COMMISSION

Mayor Roxanna Ross  
Vice-Mayor Steven Bernard  
Commissioner Bob Anderson  
Commissioner Al Childress  
Commissioner Bryan Cooper

## VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

Ana M. Garcia, Village Manager  
Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk  
Mitchell Glansberg, Chief of Police  
Bernard Pratt, Public Works Director  
Issa Thornell, Parks & Rec Director



### **"The Little Village That Could"**

**Ana M. Garcia**  
**YOUR Village Manager**

The other day one of our residents sent me an e-mail after she heard the news that the Village of Biscayne Park had received the designation of Tree City USA for 2010. It read, "We are becoming the little Village that could". That statement has become our unofficial motto, and everything we do and strive to accomplish is fueled by the echo of those powerful words.

Quality and excellence are achievable with vision and the perseverance needed to turn the vision into reality. Maximizing the efforts of our team (staff, elected officials, resident volunteers and business partners) through clearly defined goals and objectives and the leadership needed to direct the efforts, is the recipe needed to achieve success!

Our Village is experiencing a renaissance during one of the most challenging economic times in our history. Decreased property values have greatly affected our revenues. There are no state dollars available and as the Village population has slightly decreased based on the census, we can anticipate further cuts on much needed revenue streams. Yet our spirits are high and our attitudes remain positive, for what is the alternative? You can rest assured that we are looking at every contract, every vendor and expenditure, and we are identifying opportunities to save. We are also reaching out to our County

Commissioner, local businesses and organizations, and the results have been amazing.

- An Eagle Scout project at the Butterfly Park that resulted in the transformation of this facility in the southeast section of our Village.
- An intern from Barry University to assist us on a much needed initiative.
- \$5,000 from Commissioner Sally Heyman for improvements at the Ed Burke Recreation Center.
- An art sculpture and landscaping donated by our residents at Griffing Park.
- \$3,200 donated by the Civic Club for a landscaping project on sixth avenue.
- \$1,500 raised by the Parks & Parkway Advisory Board for enhancements at the entrance of the Ed Burke Recreation Center.
- Securing an agreement with Busy Bee Car Wash for free weekly car wash services of our police fleet.

These are just some of the many examples of contributions, donations and partnerships we have sought out and received. We are so grateful to all who understand our challenges, feel our passion and see our dedication to our Village and continue to support our efforts. Much can get accomplished when it is understood that individually we are limited, but together on a common mission we have no limits!

Implementing and completing projects derived from grant dollars have resulted in the continued beautification of our Village. Additionally, these projects have resulted in the enhanced quality of life of our residents. They include the drainage and street improvements on ninth court from 113th

to 109<sup>th</sup> streets, shade structures and new trees and a totally remodeled and hardened Recreation Center, as well as necessary tree trimming and tree planting throughout our Village. The Department of Forestry, Miami Dade County's Safe Neighborhood Parks, and state funding from 2009 and 2010 have afforded us the opportunity to initiate and complete these vital projects. We will continue to seek grant opportunities. One that has just been completed is the COPS Hiring Program. If awarded, the Village can hire a police officer and the first three years of their salary is paid through the grant.

It's all about maximizing what we do with a focus to minimize and/or eliminate cost and is what we will continue to do.

Please don't hesitate to contact us, or better yet stop by and visit us at Village Hall. Communicate to us your concerns and ideas and we will work to resolve issues and implement programs and initiatives as we strive for excellence in community building and community service.

It is an honor for me to serve you as your Village Manager and I speak on behalf of our Department Directors and all our staff that so appreciates your support!



**Celebrating Tree City USA 2010 at the newly planted landscaping at sixth avenue.**

# Food & Tunes Night

Ed Burke Recreation Center Field – Friday, June 10, 2011

After long last, the Biscayne Park Foundation is up and running! Through the hard work and dedication of 5 residents as the board of directors; Alfred Jonas, Victor Romano, Supreme Dorvil, Priscilla Blake and Stephen Taylor, the Foundation is moving full steam ahead. The Board has created the mission statement that the Foundation shall be for the enhancement, unification and promotion of Biscayne Park. Each member of the Board has accepted the role as an ambassador for the Village to engender and promote goodwill within the Village and when outside of the Village speaking about Foundation and Village matters.

We are having our first event, **Food and Tunes Night**, on June 10th from 6:30 to 9:00. The event will feature Axe Envy for the live music and Jefe's Original Taco and Burger food truck for a fun filled kick off to summer at the Park. Please tell all your friends within and outside of the Village to come out and have a great night out. Please remember to bring blankets or chairs to sit on and try to walk if you can. We will be having a 50/50 raffle to raise funds for the Foundation. While we are still coming up with ideas on what initial projects to fund, we have been fortunate to receive various donations as a show of faith that we will be able to keep true to our mission statement. We will have our next meeting Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Rec Center. Please show up with ideas and support or email us at [foundation@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:foundation@biscayneparkfl.gov) with any questions, concerns or ideas. We very much want to hear from the residents with ideas for projects to fund, fundraising ideas and any help we can get in time or in kind.

Please see the enclosed flyer for more information on our Food & Tunes Night.

## Here's what's happening in Parks & Recreation!

By Issa Thornell  
Parks & Recreation Director

Summer is quickly approaching which means tons of fun in the sun to come at the Ed Burke Recreation Center. We had a busy spring season which included our first outdoor Movie Night, youth dodge ball, our annual egg hunt and village market. We are eager to invite all to join in the many activities we have planned for the coming season. From the fun filled family events to sports and fitness activities for all ages, the Recreation Department takes pride in offering a variety of activities for everyone.

Registration for our summer camp program run by Golden Gates Tutoring has already begun. The program will run from June 13<sup>th</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup>, 8am to 6pm. Activities include indoor and outdoor games, arts & crafts, fun filled field trips and more. For more information, please contact Golden Gates Tutoring at 786 244-8851, or [goldengatestutors@yahoo.com](mailto:goldengatestutors@yahoo.com).

With our clubs, classes, committee and board meetings, Village commission

meetings, and every day games and activities, there is always something to participate in at our wonderful facility. Hope to see you soon!

### Upcoming Events:

- Summer Camp – June 13<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>
- 3 on 3 Hoops Tournament
- Bingo Night
- Movie Night

For any questions or for more information, please contact us at 305 893 3711, or at [recreation@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:recreation@biscayneparkfl.gov). You can also visit the Village's website at [www.biscayneparkfl.gov](http://www.biscayneparkfl.gov), and click on the Village Departments section, under Recreation.

### Hours of operation:

Park and grounds are open  
from sunrise to sunset.

### Facility hours:

Monday-Friday – 1pm to 7pm  
Saturday – 11am to 7pm  
Sunday – 11am to 7pm

At the May Commission Meeting, Village Manager Ana Garcia proudly presented the following recognitions and promotions to our deserving staff:



Jeanie Bridges, Building Clerk, recognized for Service and Organization (pictured third from right)



Roscoe Tillman, Public Works, recognized for Courage and Attitude (pictured in front, second from left)



Maria Camara, recognized for Work Ethic & Integrity, and promoted to Chief of Staff (pictured in front, third from left)



Issa Thornell recognized for Community Building and Youth Mentoring, and promoted to Parks & Recreation Director (pictured second from right)



Promotion of Antonio Sanchez to Assistant Chief of Police (pictured front center)

Not pictured, Police Officer Ray Atesiano, recognized for Commitment & Perseverance





## Home Burglary Prevention Information

The Village of Biscayne Park Police Department utilizes a number of proactive measures to protect residents against property crimes. One new innovative program that the department kicked off this past year is called Village of Biscayne Park on Patrol (VOBPOP). By strengthening the partnerships between different departments, every employee, regardless of what job they do in the Village, is constantly assessing the environment for any condition that may present itself as an opportunity for a crime.

Village employees have received special training on how to report anything they feel may be suspicious or possible crime in progress as they travel through the Village. All our Village employees have become an additional set of eyes and ears to continue to make the Village a very safe place to live. Within a few weeks from implementing the program, the program was directly responsible for capturing a dangerous felon when Public Works Director Bernard Pratt used his training to help Village Police capture a person wanted for armed burglary. Director Pratt, while performing his normal duties through the Village, noticed that this person was driving around the Village casing homes.

**You, too, can help!** The effectiveness of police efforts is enhanced by active help from citizens. By calling to report suspicious persons or activity, you not only aid the police, you also make your community a safer place to live. Some people fail to call because they are not aware of what is happening, giving the criminal an opportunity to act. Others feel that they don't want to be "nosy" but then they find out that their neighbor hood has been compromised by criminal activity. Please don't take it for granted that someone else is going to call the police. Everyone should have the police department "non-emergency" number listed in their cell phones. Our is **305-595-6263**. However, if it's a crime in progress, some-one breaking in, someone being hurt or attacked, always dial **9-1-1**.

Finally, please join our Village Crime Watch. We currently have the largest membership rate in the Village history. By receiving Crime Watch updates, you can keep informed on crime trends and matters of public safety significance. Our Crime Watch coordinator, Chuck Ross' e-mail is [biscaynepark\\_crimewatch@yahoo.com](mailto:biscaynepark_crimewatch@yahoo.com).

## Have a safe and happy summer!

Police Chief Mitchell Glansberg



### Police Department News

We are very excited to welcome on board a new police officer, Jesenia Cotilla. Officer Cotilla is a South Florida native and joined the Biscayne Park Police Department in 2011 after a career as a retail manager. Officer Cotilla has always wanted to be a police officer and is proud to be the first police officer in her family. She attended the Miami Dade College School of Justice and attained her police certification in 2010.

We are also happy to welcome Officer Breno Penichet as our Code Enforcement Officer for the Village of Biscayne Park. Officer Penichet joined the Biscayne Park Police Department in 2008 and was honorably retired from the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office as a Supervisor of Investigations after twenty years of service. Officer Penichet has also worked for the City of Hialeah as Director of Code Compliance. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience.

*The Village of Biscayne Park Police Department, in partnership with the community, is committed to providing professional, efficient, and courteous police service by creating a safe environment and improving the quality of life for those we serve in an atmosphere of respect, courtesy and integrity.*

Invest in solid doors and good quality locks on doors and windows. This includes all sliding glass doors. Make it not only difficult but also time consuming for a burglar to gain entry.

Whenever you go outside, lock the door and take the key with you, even if you just stepping next door or out mowing the yard.

Don't put valuables where they can be seen from the window, especially items that can be easily carried.

Be sure your garage door can be secured. Do not leave it open when you are away. An empty garage broadcasts your absence.

When you aren't home, use a timer to turn interior lights on and off at varying intervals as though your home is still occupied.

Don't keep large amounts of cash or valuable jewelry around the house.

If someone comes to your door asking to use the telephone, make the call yourself. Do not invite them in.

Don't hide a spare key under the door mat or under a flower pot. Thieves know all the good hiding places.

Plant thorny bushes under all windows. Trim back and trees or shrubs near doors and windows to eliminate hiding places for would-be thieves.

Invest in a good security system along with motion sensor lights installed out of reach. And always set it when you leave the house.

Don't leave ladders outside. Keep any tools that could be used to break in your home safely locked away in a garage or shed.

Engrave all valuables such as stereos, microwaves, video cameras with a unique identifier only you will know. Videotape contents of your home and keep the video and list of valuables in a safe place, such as a safety deposit box.

Remember, if you are going away, stop by Village Hall and fill out a vacation house watch. We will keep an eye on your home when you're away.



## Important Reminders from the Building Department

As spring arrived, many of our residents started some form of re-modeling or perhaps just a new coat of paint to give their home a fresh new look.

Please remember that most work done to your home requires a permit. If you are not sure as to whether or not your work would require a permit, please do not hesitate to call the Building Department at 305 899 8000 (Monday-Friday, 10am - 5pm).

For those residents who are considering painting their home, we have pre-approved colors available at the front window at Village Hall for your review.

We also encourage you to continue your vigilance in selecting a contractor that is licensed and insured as this protects you and gives the Building Department a record of who is working in the Village.

Finally, once you have obtained your permit, please post it in an area visible from the street so our Code Department can see it. This will prevent the Code Department from stopping a job to validate whether or not the work being done is permitted.

On the Village's website, you will find most of our required permit forms. Go to [www.biscayneparkfl.gov](http://www.biscayneparkfl.gov), then click on Download Permit Forms. Or, they are available at Village Hall, too.

We look forward to assisting you with any questions or concerns.

**Jeanie Bridges, Building Clerk**

## Code Enforcement Top Violated Codes

From our Code Enforcement Officer, the following are the top violated codes:

### **YARD MAINTENANCE:**

Lawns are to be mowed to eight inches (8") in height or less. Hedges are to be trimmed and all bare areas of yard must be sodded or landscaped.

### **PAVING / PARKING:**

Driveways must be in good repair and all vehicles should be parked on the driveway.

### **GARAGE SALES:**

A permit is required for garage sales and must be obtained at Village Hall before the scheduled day of the sale. Garage sales are permitted for two consecutive days, twice per calendar year, during weekends only from 9am to 5pm. Signs advertising garage sales are **NOT ALLOWED** on public property such as medians, stop signs, trees or utility poles.

### **RENTAL PROPERTY:**

It is the responsibility of the property owner, whether residing at the property or not, to adhere to all codes.

### **VEHICLES:**

All vehicles must be registered, operable and display a current tag. No commercial vehicles allowed in the public right of way, except when loading and unloading. Our Village code does not allow the parking or storage of vehicles of one ton or over in residential areas.

### **PAINT:**

Paint or other water resistant treatment is required on the exterior of structures. Approved brick or stone siding that is well maintained and water resistant is allowed. A permit is required for painting and can be obtained at Village Hall.

### **OUTDOOR STORAGE:**

Outdoor storage is prohibited. Any equipment, materials, or furnishings that are used indoors cannot be stored outside. You may not keep indoor furniture, household appliances, auto parts or building materials outside.

### **PORTABLE STORAGE UNITS:**

You are required to fill out a portable storage unit application which notifies the Village that a unit will be placed on your property. The unit can remain on the property for up to 14 days only. Applications are available at Village Hall.

### **LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF DOGS AND CATS:**

Our code stipulates that a total of four (4) dogs OR four (4) cats, or any combination totaling four (4) is the maximum that is allowed on any property.



The Village of Biscayne Park is working diligently to keep your medians looking first rate. Inasmuch we ask that you do not drive across or park your vehicle on the medians. Driving across or parking on the medians causes undue stress to the greenery that we are trying to maintain. It is also a parking infraction, or non-criminal traffic infraction, which both carry an expensive fine.

If you utilize a yard maintenance service, please communicate to them to park in your driveway or other area of your property, if at all possible, and not on the medians.

But should you need to park on the median for a short time for yard maintenance or other maintenance, or you are having an event at your residence with a large number of cars, please communicate this to our police department in advance. Please call 305 899 8000 and request to speak to Rafael DelVillar, our Community Service Officer. He will in turn relay the information to our road patrol officers and our Code Enforcement officer.

If you need to park for longer periods or overnight, under special circumstances you can request permission by contacting Chief Mitchell Glansberg either via e-mail at [policechief@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:policechief@biscayneparkfl.gov), or calling 305 899 8000.



# Important Reminders from Your Public Works Department



The Village of Biscayne Park is proud to provide its resident with weekly garbage, trash and recycling service. But it is important that all residents abide by the schedules for pick up, allowable containers and storage of the containers, allowable materials, and size. Please take a few moments to review:

- Garbage, trash and recycling must be kept behind the front line of the building and out of view. It is to be placed out for pick-up no sooner than 24 hours before your scheduled pick up day.
- Garbage is considered kitchen waste, discarded food, and small household discards. Items must be bagged and placed in containers that do not exceed 40 gallons. Garbage is picked up twice a week.
- Trash is considered yard waste/debris, miscellaneous household items, non-hazardous materials or building materials. The trash pile cannot exceed 2 cubic yards (3' x 3' x 6'). Trash is picked up once a week.
- If you are not sure of when your scheduled pick up days are for garbage and trash, please contact the Public Works Department at 305 893 4346 or visit our website at [www.biscayneparkfl.gov](http://www.biscayneparkfl.gov) and click on Village Departments, and follow the links to find the map and schedules.
- Recycling is for allowed recyclable materials and are to be placed in the recycling bin. Recycling is picked up once a week on Wednesdays.
- Special pick ups for furniture, white goods (appliances) or other large items is available. Please contact the Public Works Department at 305 893 4346 for scheduling and fees.

If a trash pile exceeds the allowable size limit, or if trash is placed out on the wrong

day, you will be subject to a special pick up fee and invoiced accordingly.

All privately hired landscaping companies are held responsible for the removal of any and all debris.

Lastly, an important reminder that the South Florida Water Management District has placed Miami-Dade County, as well as several other counties, under water restrictions. Here are the allowed times for watering:



## Notes on Water Restrictions:

**ODD House Numbers – Wednesday & Saturday ONLY**

12:00am to 10:00am and/or 4:00pm to 11:59pm

**EVEN House Numbers – Thursday & Sunday ONLY**

12:00am to 10:00am and/or 4:00pm to 11:59pm

**Please note:** Water restrictions apply to almost all users, no matter where your water comes from. This includes public and private wells or community lakes, rivers or canals - or a city/county utility.

## RECYCLING UPDATE!



The Ecology Board has provided us with their recommendation to utilize a single stream recycling system that would provide residents of the Village the opportunity to recycle more materials, plus other benefits. The administration and commission want to hear **YOUR OPINION** on both our current system and the new proposed system. Please look for the separate flyer for more details and how to voice your comments. Thank you!



On behalf of the entire Public Works Department, Director Bernard Pratt would like to say thank you to all the residents that generously donated items that were needed at their new facility.





Beautiful trees have been planted throughout the Ed Burke Recreation Center to highlight the improvements to the facility.



Vice Mayor Steve Bernard, Commissioner Al Childress, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman, Commissioner Bob Anderson, Mayor Roxanna Ross, and Florida Representative Daphne Campbell unveil the new sign that was provided through a generous donation by Commissioner Heyman.



A wonderful gathering of residents came to Griffing Park for the unveiling of the Triax Alpha V art sculpture that was obtained through generous donations from residents and friends of the Village.



Members of the Parks & Parkway Advisory Board, Biscayne Park Foundation, and the Village Commission join Village Manager Ana Garcia and Parks & Recreation Director Issa Thornell in the ribbon cutting of the new landscaping added to the entrance of the facility.



Village Clerk Maria Camara, Village Manager Ana Garcia, Florida House Representative Daphne Campbell, Mayor Roxanna Ross and Commissioner Bob Anderson celebrate the dedication of the Ed Burke Recreation Center facility and the hardening and improvements made through grant funding.



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To advertise in our quarterly newsletter, please call 305 893 3711. The Village of Biscayne Park reserves the right to reject an offer to place an ad in the newsletter on a case-by-case basis; and does not endorse or guarantee any product, service or company represented in the displayed advertisement.



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We are here to assist you with any questions or concerns.

### POLICE EMERGENCY – Dial 911

Police NON-Emergency Dispatch  
(305) 595 6263

Village Hall (Log Cabin) M-F 9am-5pm  
(305) 899 8000

Building Dept (Log Cabin) M-F 10am-5pm  
(305) 899 8000

Code Enforcement (M-F 9am-5pm)  
(305) 899 8000

Public Works (M-F 9am-2pm)  
(305) 893 4346

Ed Burke Recreation Center  
Park and grounds open from sunrise to sunset. Facility hours:  
M-F 1pm-7pm  
Sat – Sun 11am-7pm

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